

(Continued from First Page.)

for the achievement of complete independence and the establishment of free self-government was so completely and brilliantly successful.

But the new and stirring truths, that every man is born with an inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and that resistance to tyrants is obedience to God, immediately took deep root in the hearts and consciences of the American colonists; and through seven years of struggle and a baptism and contest of blood and fire, finally developed in full fruitage a system of free self-government, which has now grown to the stalwart status of the American Republic, whose wealth, intelligence, influence and power are fully recognized by all the nations of the earth.

Americans on this day, whether at home or abroad, may be pardoned, if they indulge in feelings and expressions of national pride and rejoicing over what has been wrought within the territory of the United States of America, in little more than a century of life and growth. The nation has extended its jurisdiction and sovereignty from what was a narrow strip of Atlantic sea coast and an almost uninhabited wilderness to the farthest possible limit of the Pacific shore.

The starry flag of our country now floats, with unquestioned authority, from the vast chain of the lakes of the north to the great southern gulf, and from where the lofty Katabind frowns down upon the stormy Atlantic as it beats on the shore of old Plymouth Rock to where the snowy Sierras look out upon the blue, unweaved Pacific.

Our population has increased more than twenty fold, and the original sisterhood of thirteen States now numbers forty-five independent, self-governing communities, and we confidently hope and expect that other members will be long be welcomed into this circle, and that other stars will be added to the galaxy that now adorns our flag.

Territorial acquisition, or enlargement, is not the American policy; yet we have accepted and shall cheerfully accept any increase of our national territory and jurisdiction that seems to be natural and is in accord with the proper spirit of national progress and with our national character and institutions; and it is my thought that we may be, in the future, compelled by considerations of prudence and the necessities that may arise and affect our national position, to relax, or modify, our somewhat rigid doctrine in relation to this subject.

It may be that in the future the people of the United States will see fit to extend the jurisdiction of the Republic beyond the present continental shore limits; but, in any such case which may arise, this will only be done in accordance with the desire and with the full and free consent of the communities that would be affected by the change.

Of the progress of the American nation in intelligence and wealth, it is neither necessary, nor would it be becoming, for us to boast. In neither of these respects is any encomium needed; what has been accomplished in the way of advance and achievement speaks constantly for itself in our contact with the civilized world, intellectually, socially and commercially.

Suffice it to say that in nearly all the American communities the education of the people is held to be of the first and highest importance; that the free education of the common people is recognized as a necessity, if our free institutions are to remain intact and permanent; that generally all educational institutions and efforts are liberally sustained; that in all departments of literature and science the sons and daughters of the Republic have already won high distinction, and many of them are now recognized as among the benefactors and the teachers of the world. On one point only is there any difference of opinion, or apprehension of future difficulty, and that is in reference to the relations that exist, or may be established, between our free common schools and certain religious organizations. But I believe it may be safely assumed that the present limitation of the function of control of free popular education to the agency of the state and the exclusion from it of church and sectarian influences, will be substantially and rigidly maintained. It is not probable that, to any important extent, any church or sect in the United States will be able to interfere with state control and administration of the public schools. They will remain not only free, but secular in their character.

Of the material wealth of the American Republic, it may safely be asserted that, judged by the correct rule of estimate, that is, by the standard of the distribution of wealth and of the amount in the possession of the people, per capita, it is the richest nation today on the globe. The wealth of the nation is more generally and widely distributed than in any other country. A far larger number of our citizens, in proportion to the entire population, are bona fide owners of real or personal property than elsewhere.

If we consider the increase of the wealth of the world we shall find that the showing is surprisingly creditable to the people of the United States. Statistics show that of the total increase of the wealth of the civilized world during the period of twenty-five years, from 1865 to 1890, the United States earned, accumulated and has in actual possession more than 50 per cent.

No fact could be more significant than this of the general and substantial prosperity of the nation from this material point of view. There is sometimes felt and expressed an apprehension that the sudden, or rapid, acquisition of vast wealth by individuals bodes no good for the future of the Republic; but these instances of the accumulation of vast fortunes are, after all, comparatively few, and it may be safely assumed that the inordinate riches thus acquired will, in nearly all cases, be redistributed and scattered within the lifetime of a generation. I believe there is no cause for serious apprehension of any evil resulting from an aristocracy of wealth in the United States. We may,

therefore, today, with justifiable pride, and without being subject to the charge of undue boasting, say that ours is a free, prosperous, rich and powerful nation, and that this is the result of adherence to the principles and purposes that were most conspicuous at the nation's birth.

But we must admit that, in common with all other nations and peoples, we are by no means faultless, nor is our system of government flawless or without its defects, difficulties and embarrassments. It is in the nature of things that all new experiments in the line of Government and statesmanship must be subjected to the actual, and often severe, tests of experience. Governments can not be successfully established, or maintained, merely on theories; the practical trial of these theories, with all the incidents that may befall, must be endured before the correctness of any theory, or the strength of the government based upon it, can be demonstrated. To some such tests the American Republic has already been subjected, and it cannot be denied that the results thus far have been and are gratifying to all patriotic citizens.

In so far as assaults upon our nationality are concerned, we have already resisted, with marked success, attacks both foreign and domestic; we have repelled foreign hostility and invasion, and we have suppressed domestic treason and rebellion; and from each of these trials the nation has emerged with increased strength and vigor, and with the bond that unites the several integral portions of the Republic in one body politic made much more effective and less liable to loosening, or severance, than it was before.

The people of the United States do not now, nor do I think it likely that they ever will, entertain any fear of any foreign hostility; there is a public sense of absolute security on that score, and a general conviction that the nation could easily and quickly repel any foreign invasion or assault. The natural advantages and resources of the Republic, and the ready patriotism with which any call for national defense would be responded to by the whole body of the people, are a sufficient guarantee of safety against any hostile demonstration from without our own borders.

The severest test of the strength of our Republic institutions, and of the value of the bond of national unity, was that which arose within our own national family and made the great civil war, in which the great stake was the integrity of the Republic, for a memorable period the center of the attention of the civilized world without and of the most intense anxiety within the Republic.

No nation in history has ever been subjected to a more crucial test than that of the war between the general Government and the States that were loyal to it on the one side and those States of the Union which claimed the right to secede from the Union and took up arms to maintain that claim, on the other.

That great contest, with its almost unparalleled calamities and sacrifices, is now a matter of history, and even to the present rising generation of American citizens it is a subject not of personal memory but of reading and tradition.

The miseries, the losses, and to a very large extent the animosities, of that terrible period of trial are now all of the past, and no judicious and liberty loving citizen of the Republic desires needlessly to recall them. But the lesson of that great conflict is one which every true American can with profit dwell upon, and from it deduce wisdom, prudence, courage and hope for the future. The one great, grand and overshadowing result of the great conflict was, that it proved beyond the doubt of future possibility or question, the reality and stability of the oneness of the American Republic; it demonstrated conclusively that a Republic composed of separate, independent commonwealths could, as one body politic, assert and maintain the supremacy of national authority and law; that the American Republic could be made in fact, as well as in name and theory, one and indivisible. As a result of that great and fearful war, and its outcome in victory for the national integrity, there is today, throughout the whole United States of America, a much deeper sense of loyalty to the Republic, of fealty to the national authority and of devotion to the national flag and the interests of which it is the symbol and protector, than there was at any period prior to that conflict. In my judgment, if there were no other compensatory results of that great struggle, this would alone amply repay the nation for its expenditure of blood and treasure. But incidentally other beneficent results may be noted. The elimination and disappearance of the institution of human slavery from the United States, which was an incident of the civil war, was of itself a most conspicuous benefit to the whole country, and I believe that this is now generally recognized as a fact by the great majority of those who formerly honestly and earnestly defended, or championed, that institution that was peculiar to the Southern portion of the Republic. The original founders of the Republic and framers of our constitution found slavery an existing fact, recognized it as such, and few, if any, of them foresaw the difficulties and dangers which were sure to arise from the incongruity of the presence and maintenance of a system of human slavery in a free Republic.

But that incongruity, and in fact the impossibility of a permanent co-existence of slaves and freemen under a free self-government, became in course of time evident, and that one or the other must be eliminated was a truth that was forced upon the attention of the nation in the crisis of the struggle for the maintenance of national unity.

Slavery was, in fact, the one unifying stone in the great column of liberty and American free self-government, it endangered the entire structure, and when the storm of civil war broke so unexpectedly and beat so fiercely upon that column, the civilized world outside of the scene of conflict gazed upon it, expecting and predicting that it would totter to its fall. But fortunately for the Republic and for the hopes of men

that were centered upon it, not only is God greater than man, but in emergencies he provides the instruments that are necessary for the preservation of what is best in national life, and for the vindication and establishment of the cause of righteousness and justice; and at the critical moment for the nation, the power to decree that slavery in free America should be no more, was in the hands of the man who is now the most loved and revered of all the lost of earth, Abraham Lincoln, and he resolutely executed the purpose which he deemed essential to the salvation of the Republic, and made real and universal within it the proclamation, which had, up to that time, been only of partial application: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

When, after the close of the great contest, the national heart was sore stricken beyond all precedent, by the cruel assassination of the nation's chosen head, and his lifeless body was borne to its resting place amid a nation's tears, it seemed to me that that great soul, as it went to a stand before the judgment seat, where we must all one day stand to plead for mercy, could have carried in his hand no more potent plea for forgiveness than the broken shackles of four millions of his liberated fellow men.

It is well for nations and communities that in the times of their need and trial the right sort of men and agents appear for their help. It is a belief, perhaps a common one—at least it finds frequent expression—that the great men of our country have passed away; that all the really great men have died from among us; that we have no more men who are, or who might become, giants in statesmanship or heroes in war. I hold, however, the contrary belief; that there are always men who, in the event of a real occasion and need, will be found equal to any emergency or demand. I recall the fact that this idea that the great men are no longer with us or of us, is not a novel one. I remember that soon after the deaths of three great American statesmen, Calhoun, Clay and Webster, who followed each other in quick succession to the grave, one of our poets wrote, sadly thus:

"Lo, Carolina mourns her steadfast pine,
Which like a mainmast towered above her realm;
And Ashland hears no more the voice divine
From out the branches of her ancient elm;
And Marshall's giant oak, whose stormy brow
Oft turned the ocean tempest from the west,
Lies on the shore he guarded long, and now
Our startled eagle knows not where to rest."

But this pathetically uttered plaint of the disheartened poet was not the expression of the truth. It was not a fact that this nation was bereft of its guardians, or left without defenders, because one, or another, great man or prince had fallen in Israel. For in how brief a period was it after this lamenting utterance, that the unexpected tempest of internal sectional strife burst upon our national horizon and blotted out the sunshine of peace; yet just at the crisis when their help was needed God raised up Lincoln and his great associates in statesmanship, and under their sagacious guidance the nation emerged into the clearer and brighter light of a larger freedom, and grew to a stronger and better nationality; and in the crucial hour when the angry waves of a powerful armed rebellion beat most fiercely on the imperiled foundations of our national constitution and government, then came such soldiers as Grant, Sherman and Sheridan, and the threatening billows were rolled back as the rock rolls back the wave. Let no good, no righteous, cause ever despair of finding defenders; they will appear at the hour appointed for them, and victory will finally crown the right.

There are still some incidents, consequences and conditions of the period prior to emancipation remaining, and some difficult problems resulting from the change are still unsolved; but I believe that the intelligence and the sense of justice of the people of the United States will be found adequate for their peaceable solution.

That our country will remain forever, or as long as it endures as a nation, the home of freemen only is unquestionably assured. The nation will remain one and wholly free.

But all well informed citizens of our Republic are well aware that we have by no means solved all the problems of self-government, or disposed of all the difficulties that arise in the administration of our somewhat complex system. These problems and difficulties are not now such as the most important of those of the ante-bellum period were, in their character; they do not appeal so much to the moral sense or to humane considerations; they are not of a sentimental nature, nor calculated to arouse men's sympathies and passions; they appeal rather to the matters of fact and to work day life conditions; they are questions of an economic and business character, or fall into the category of sociological questions; the prominent and pressing questions of the hour are those of finance, labor and enterprise.

Men and parties are not contending now for the triumph of any moral or humane cause, as much as they are for the bettering of their material fortunes, or the achievement of an advance, or for a commanding place in business or political activities. The discussions relate to the conditions relatively of capital and labor and their respective demands; to the relations of corporate and individual enterprise; to tariffs, revenues and currency, and of governmental participation in public improvements. Questions of tariff schedules, of coinage, of laws for the regulation of commerce and the compensation of labor are now demanding the greater share of public attention. Perhaps the gravest of these questions is that which relates to the conditions and compensation of labor. The labor market is in many localities, and often overstocked;

there are in many communities large numbers of the unemployed. There is an influx of undesirable immigration and of cheap labor from some of the over populated countries of Europe, and this complicates and intensifies the labor problems, especially in the Eastern States. Yet labor is loud in its demands for more generous recognition and larger reward, and the conflict between cautious and sometimes greedy capital and aggressive and insistent labor is often severe and fraught with mischievous consequences. While these conditions continue we must not be surprised if we hear periodically of strikes and other mischievous interferences with the progress of our industries; but the final solution of these difficulties will be found only when certain truths are generally recognized and made the basis of practical remedial action.

Capital must learn and admit that the only just as well as wise rule is a fair day's wages for a fair day's work, and must be willing to accord to labor at least that much of reward. Capital should also understand that labor is in a most important sense its co-laborer and helper, and that the interest of capital is best promoted when labor is most satisfactorily compensated. Labor, or the working man who is its personal embodiment and representative, needs to learn that each individual workingman is the sole rightful master of his own labor, and that he has an indefeasible right to dispose of that labor as he may please, without any interference or dictation from the capitalist or his fellow workingman.

If these two lessons can be respectively learned by the representatives of the two parties to what is called the labor controversy, the peaceable and satisfactory solution of the troublesome labor problems will then be near. The greed of capital will be moderated and the unjustifiable interference of labor organizations with the free action of the individual workingman will cease; then, and not till then, will the unwise, often unlawful, interruption of industries by strikes, boycotts and lockouts come to an end; co-operation instead of conflict will become possible and the industrial conditions of our country will assume a much more satisfactory phase.

That this will be the trend and tenor of events in our country, and that the condition will ere long be better, rather than worse, I hopefully believe. Wise legislation may render material assistance in bringing about an improved condition. That there will be some effective measures adopted to restrict undesirable immigration from Europe is, I think, extremely probable, and of the beneficial effect of such legislation there can be no doubt.

Our industries, vast and varied as they are, should receive from the National Government any fostering care which they may need for their development and increase, and public sentiment in the United States will demand that governmental action shall be guided on this subject in accordance with this rule.

I am therefore hopeful, my confident, that our country and its people are about to witness a return of the conditions of material prosperity, and that there will be ere long ample occasion for congratulation on the advent of better times.

To one more important and cheerful truth let me direct your attention; to a fact that is, in part at least, a result of that great test and trial to which our Government and institutions were subjected in that comparatively recent period of domestic strife; and this is the fact that the American Republic has now a world-wide and much more important and valuable recognition than it had previous to the issue of the great war; that contest advertised us to all the world as nothing else could have done. The nations of the earth now recognize, as they did not before, the United States of America as one of the great powers of the earth; as a nation whose military prowess and whose resources are ample in any emergency, for the purpose of either defense or attack. Our national flag is now respected on every sea and shore, and no other nation will ever hastily, or lightly, challenge us to the arbitrament of arms. While, within our domain, peace with her olive crown shall stretch her wings from shore to shore, we need have little fear that aggressive war from any foreign source will ever darken our horizon.

We may, therefore, with malice toward none and with charity toward all, rejoice today in this commemoration of our national birth festival, and we may look down the vista of our national future with cheerful courage and hearty hope; grateful for what has been accomplished, hopeful for still greater and better things in the years, perhaps the ages, yet to come, not only for our own country but for all mankind. When I study the teachings of human history, when I note the steady but sure advance of human knowledge and of Christian light and truth, and the successive struggles of peoples and of nations toward better and higher conditions of living and of government, I can not but believe in the assured progress of the race toward a higher plane of civilization, an enlarged and better brotherhood of man and a purer Christianity. What the future may hold I know not, but I believe that it will be, for our country and the world at large, greater, better and happier than what has been.

I recall a custom which once obtained, and is perhaps still continued, in Switzerland—that home of sturdy freemen—and which suggests a forecast of our national future in which I believe. In that mountain land the shepherds are accustomed to lead forth their flocks to the pastures, far up among the glacial hills, before the early morning's dawn. At the little chapels, shrines and chalets in the valleys and on the hillside are stationed watchers for the coming day; when the first rays of sunlight touch the towering peaks, when "fair Aurora, daughter of the dawn," appears and stands rosy and jocund on the misty mountain tops, the watchers and the shepherds call loudly and responsively to each other: "Praise God, for the morning cometh!" And this glad welcome to the new-born day is repeated and re-repeated from valley, crag and hillside, until it swells to a rejoicing chorus that fills the ambient air and echoes and re-echoes among the overhanging hills, as the giant of the morning touches with his glided spear and rolls back the clouds and gloom of night.

So in the coming time, far distant yet it may be, yet sure to come, methinks I hear another mighty chorus of rejoicing of uncounted millions of freemen, which shall flood with its melody a vast continent, reverberating from ocean to ocean, and it will perhaps embrace in its melodious sweep these sweet islands of the sea; and the burden of that song shall be, Praise God, who gave to our fathers and has preserved for their children, in free America, a perfect Government of liberty under law.

At the close of Mr. Pangborn's speech Col. W. F. Allen rose from his seat in the audience and moved a vote of thanks to the orator of the day. The motion was carried with an enthusiastic "aye."

The national hymn "America" was sung by the audience, Miss Richards leading. Rev. Mr. Garvin delivered the closing prayer.

After the exercises quite a number, including President Dole, Chief Justice Judd, Minister Cooper, Rev. D. P. Birnie gathered about the stage to offer congratulations upon the success of the function of the day.

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3—Fire Funds 8,410,592 7 3

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Revenue Fire Branch 1,546,860 18 7

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